The Jiri Irrigation Project is in Manipur. It proposes to harness the river Jiri at Jiribam. The Project will benefit Manipur and Assam. The Gross Command Area is 7570 hectares. The Project is estimated to cost Rs. 6652.32 Lakh and is targeted to be completed by 2007-08.

The Dzuza Irrigation Project is in Nagaland. It proposes to harness the Dzuza river by construction of a barrage over the river. It will benefit Nagaland and Assam with a canal 21.51 km long for irrigation. The Gross Command Area is 9540 hectares. The DPR is under preparation by the Central Water Commission.

Insurance scheme for Indians going abroad

*51. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Insurance Scheme is proposed to be introduced for Indians who go abroad including Gulf countries for work;

(b) if so, the details including purpose, amount to be paid and the amount expected to be collected during the year 2003-04, State-wise;

(c) whether fees are collected during emigration clearance for benefits, evacuation of workers from their respective countries/work place during emergency situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount of above fund acquired as on date, State-wise, category-wise; and

(e) whether Government propose to cancel the fee in the light of the above Insurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An insurance scheme for Indian workers going abroad for employment, *viz.*, "the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana, 2003" has been notified on 13.11.2003. This insurance scheme will be effective from 25.12.2003 under which all emigrants with Emigration Check Required (ECR) endorsement on their passports will be required to take an insurance policy from any Insurance Company operating in India and duly registered with the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority while applying for emigration clearance under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983. The purpose is to provide for contingencies like

emigrant workers getting stranded abroad, medical cover in India, etc. The premium will be determined by the insurance companies but it will be fair and reasonable. Government will not collect any amount towards insurance premia.

(c) No, Sir. The emigration fee currently being charged under rule 15 of the Emigration Rules, 1983 is only for meeting the costs incurred by the Government on the services provided by it and does not cover cost of evacuation etc. in contingencies.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Amendment of Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946

*52. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 in order to allow the industrial units to recruit manpower on fixed term contracts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) A proposal to amend the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 to include "Fixed Term Employment Workman" in the Schedule of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and Model Standing Orders annexed to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Rules, 1946 is under consideration of the Government at present.

A fixed term employment workman will be engaged on the basis of contract of employment for a fixed period. However, his working hours, wages, allowances and other benefits shall not be less than that of a permanent workman. He shall also be eligible for all statutory benefits available to a permanent workman proportionately according to the period of service rendered by him even though his period of employment does not extend to the qualifying period of employment.